

CITY OF SUNNYVALE
PARKS DIVISION
730-7506

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

**GEESE IN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
AND OPEN SPACE**

The City of Sunnyvale Parks Division manages several ornamental ponds throughout the park and open space system, all of which attract waterfowl, including geese, at certain times of the year.

On the one hand, Canadian Geese are a valuable natural resource that provide recreation and enjoyment to bird watchers and the public. The sight of the distinctive V-formation of a flock always brings a special thrill. But in recent years, flocks of local-nesting or “resident” geese have become year-round inhabitants of our parks, waterways and golf courses where they can cause significant problems.

While most people find a few geese acceptable, problems develop as local flocks grow. At times their droppings become excessive (an adult goose produces a pound of droppings per day). Problems include over-grazed lawns, accumulations of droppings and feathers on play areas and walkways, nutrient loading of ponds, public health concerns and aggressive behavior by nesting birds.

To minimize these problems the accepted and most effective solution is to discourage the geese from settling at a particular site. If they are not quickly dispersed, they will be more tolerant of disturbances and more difficult to disperse. To accomplish this requires a persistent application of a combination of methods. Some of the methods that the City will use, on occasion, include: discourage feeding of geese by the public, visual scaring devices, noisemakers, human-safe lawn feeding repellent and chasing or “hazing” by trained dogs that do not cause harm. None of these methods require Federal or State permits but may require a special permit issued by the Director of Parks & Recreation.

If you have any questions regarding geese management activities, please call the Parks Office at 730-7506. Thank you for helping us to keep Sunnyvale’s parks safe, attractive and usable
